

# Volunteers-in-Parks Newsletter

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National Historical Park



## Upcoming Events

March 1, 2017

### March 7 (7pm): Friends Speaker Series (The Revolution's Last Men: The Soldiers Behind the Photos)

*The six surviving soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War were interviewed and photographed in 1864. A researcher and writer tells their stories. For more information, visit <http://vfparkalliance.org/>*

### March 14 & 21 (8am): VF Park Alliance Bird Walk

*Join VIPs Tom and Mary Ellen on a fun bird walk. Meet at Artillery Park.*

### March 22 (12pm): Lunch & Learn topic: Artifacts and what to do with them

*Join John Turck, Archeologist/ GIS Specialist, to learn what to do if you (or a Visitor) finds an artifact in the park.*

### April: Volunteer Appreciation Month

*Thank you for everything you do for Valley Forge. As part of our involvement with two professional associations of volunteer managers in the Greater Philadelphia area, we participate in a reciprocal free pass program for the month. Regularly scheduled Valley Forge volunteers may receive a set of free passes to area cultural sites. Passes will be available at the working meetings at the end of March. After we send out the dates, if you cannot attend a working meeting, please fill out this form to receive your pass: <https://goo.gl/forms/9kSa31qDc7uNsnu22>.*

### April 4 (10am-4:30pm): Home School Day

*More information to come about the Spring Home School Day. A core team of volunteers has already been planning this event with Ranger Jennifer Bourque.*

### April 15 (10am-2:30pm): Jr. Ranger Day

*More information to come about the Jr. Ranger Day. We anticipate a need for volunteers to support this event.*

### April 15-23: National Park Week

*NPS and the [National Park Foundation](#), the official charity of America's national parks, are presenting National Park Week—America's largest celebration of national heritage.*

### April 22 (8am-12pm): The Valley Forge Revolutionary 5-Mile Run

*A unique challenge for runners of all skill levels. Runners trek the five-mile, USATF certified course through the park. The event also includes a 3 mile walk and the 1.776km Young Patriots Run for kids ages 6-14. All proceeds benefit the Valley Forge National Historical Park. More information to come about the [Rev Run](#).*

## Volunteer & Park Updates

Welcome back Ranger Ellen Axelson from maternity leave. Ellen is the VIP Coordinator for Park Ambassadors.

2017 Fee Free days for public lands: April 15-15 & April 22-23 for National Park Week Weekends; June 10 for National Get Outdoors Day (national forests will waive entrance fees); August 25 for the National Park Service Birthday; September 30 for National Public Lands Day (National parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests and public lands managed by Bureau of Land Management will waive their entrance fees); October 8 for First Sunday of National Wildlife Refuge Week (all national wildlife refuges will waive their entrance fees); November 11-12 for Veterans Day Weekend.

Are you over the age of 62 and want a lifetime pass to all national parks? Get yours ASAP before they raise the cost to \$80. Right now you can order one online for \$20, or buy one for \$10 at a national park with a fee (not Valley Forge). Get the details here: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm>.

Free, interactive iBooks on Washington's Leadership from Mt. Vernon's [George Washington Leadership Institute](http://www.mountvernon.org/site/leadership-institute/#lessons) are available for download on Apple products (Android available soon): [www.mountvernon.org/site/leadership-institute/#lessons](http://www.mountvernon.org/site/leadership-institute/#lessons).

The [Museum of the American Revolution](#) Open House. We are grateful to MAR for offering us a limited number of tickets to its Open House, which will occur April 14<sup>th</sup> (the official museum opening is Wednesday, April 19). Stay tuned for more details on how you can get your tickets.

**Know how to sew?** A volunteer is needed to help sew small circular patches onto backpacks for 22 new Park Ambassador volunteers. Contact Cristina if you are interested in helping out this new, creative way.

[The National Park System Plan](#). NPS released a plan to identify opportunities within its current operations where there is potential to more fully represent the natural, historical, and cultural heritage of our country. The plan has a strong emphasis on the importance of partnerships and community engagement.

Hopewell Furnace is recruiting a VIP RVing couple for the summer of 2017. The RV pad is being rehabbed to accommodate a single rig, no longer than 40'. If both members of the couple volunteer 32 hours a week, or more, all costs associated with electric, water, and septic will be paid by Hopewell Furnace. Application can be found at [www.voluteer.gov](http://www.voluteer.gov) (enter "Hopewell Furnace" in keyword search).

Ongoing volunteer opportunity to **Index Hopewell Furnace's Digital 19 Century Account Books**. Volunteers link page citations to specific Hopewell Furnace workers. Account books are accessed via <http://npgallery.nps.gov/hofu/>. Work can be done at home. Email [rebecca\\_ross@nps.gov](mailto:rebecca_ross@nps.gov) if interested.

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site currently offers 2 paid summer internships through its "Conservation Legacy Environmental Stewards" program. See attached and please share with anyone that would interested.

Know a high school student looking for a summer job? The YCC at Valley Forge is now accepting application: [www.nps.gov/vafo/getinvolved/workwithus.htm](http://www.nps.gov/vafo/getinvolved/workwithus.htm) or contact Amy Ruhe (610-783-1036 | [amy\\_ruhe@nps.gov](mailto:amy_ruhe@nps.gov)).

## Safety Reminders

1. Please review the Valley Forge Superintendent's Compendium to learn the park's rules and regulations: <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/learn/management/upload/2015-VAFO-Compendium.pdf>.
2. Remember to program the Montgomery County Non-Emergency Line (610-275-1222) into your cell phone. For immediate emergencies (safety or medical) ALWAYS call 911. For all other circumstances call the Non-Emergency number.
3. Call the Valley Forge Snow Line if you are not sure if the park has a delayed opening or will be closed: 610-783-1095.
4. Attached is an article from the [National Safety Council](#) on train related injuries. The number of people injured on train tracks is growing. VIPs should report visitors who walk on the train tracks.

## Recent Events



Thanks to all the volunteers who made Washington's Birthday Party a success! We gave out over 1,000 pieces of cake.